

BOOK REVIEWS

TEXTBOOK OF PEDIATRICS. Edited by Waldo E. Nelson, M.D., Professor of Pediatrics, Temple University School of Medicine, with the collaboration of 63 contributors. Fifth edition with 426 illustrations, 19 in color. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1950. \$12.50.

The fifth edition of Mitchell and Nelson's "Textbook of Pediatrics" represents a thorough going-over and perfecting of the widely accepted fourth edition. Each chapter has been thoroughly revised and rewritten and many new chapters have been added. Improvements worthy of mention which are in keeping with the need for background knowledge in the care of children are the chapters on "Growth and Development" and "Mental and Emotional Development." These chapters have been thoroughly rewritten and enlarged upon, providing a most excellent orientation to the "pediatric way of thinking" in the application of medical knowledge to infants and children.

Of particular interest is the handling of the chapters "Disturbances of Fluid and Electrolyte Equilibrium" and "Parenteral Fluid Therapy." These subjects, always difficult to present clearly, have been presented in a brief, concise, and practical manner. The student as well as the practitioner can find a quick qualitative and quantitative answer to diagnostic and therapeutic problems in acid-base and dehydration disorders.

In an effort to make the textbook eminently practical, each author, in addition to the didactic dissertation of the specific disease, has presented clear-cut therapeutic programs for the handling of the specific disease. The quality of the text was present in the first three editions under the editorship of Griffith and Mitchell and has been successfully maintained and improved upon by Nelson. Finally, of great value is the presence of an appendix which provides ready reference to normal blood and urine values in infants and children of various ages. Included are normal cerebrospinal fluid values; water, salt, and nutritional requirements for infants and children; food value tables; methods of diet calculation, nomograms for surface area, height and weight; and a variety of conversion tables always necessary to the busy student and practitioner with a limited library at hand.

In the fifth edition of the Mitchell and Nelson "Textbook of Pediatrics" it is apparent that every effort has been made to provide a most up-to-date, complete, and practical textbook of medicine as it relates to infants and children. It should have no difficulty in maintaining its position as an outstanding textbook of medicine, and will be of value not only to the student and pediatrician but to others in all fields of medicine.

* * *

THE ARTHROPATHIES—A Handbook of Roentgen Diagnosis. By Alfred A. DeLorimer, M.D., Radiologist, St. Francis Hospital, San Francisco, formerly Commandant, the Army School of Roentgenology. Second edition. The Year Book Publishers, Inc., 200 East Orange Street, Chicago, 1949. \$7.00.

This second edition of this book, one of a series of monographs on roentgenological topics, has been augmented with more written material. Several new illustrations are used, and the system of marking indicators has been clarified. The book is in three major parts: The peripheral joints, the spine, and temporomandibular joints. Emphasis is placed on the appearance of the soft tissues as well as the bones, for soft tissues often show earlier manifestations of the disease. Common technical errors are discussed, and the value of high KV technique is argued. Considerable material which

is primarily bone disease is discussed because of associated joint involvement. The book is organized to make ready reference easy. Despite the small size of the book, its cuts are satisfactory, and this volume is one which should prove of interest and value to all radiologists and others interested in joint disease. Dr. DeLorimer has threaded his way through the maze of different joint diseases in a clear and succinct manner.

* * *

MEDICAL DISEASES OF THE KIDNEY (An Atlas and Introduction). By J. F. A. McManus, M.D., Associate Professor of Pathology, the Medical College of Alabama, Birmingham. Lea & Febiger, Philadelphia, 1950. \$6.00.

The backbone of this small book consists of one hundred large illustrations of renal lesions, virtually all of them photomicrographs and most of them showing details of kidney tissue as stained by the periodic acid-Schiff's reagent technique. The illustrations are beautiful, revealing structure never before seen by at least one reader. It is perhaps not the fault of the stimulating text that its quality is not quite up to that of the illustrative material. One hopes the typographical errors will be corrected in later editions. The work is highly recommended specifically to all who are interested in renal lesions and to all thoughtful physicians.

* * *

CLINICAL NEUROLOGY. By Bernard J. Alpers, M.D., Sc.D. (Med.), Professor of Neurology, Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia. 240 Illustrations. Second Edition. F. A. Davis Company, Philadelphia, 1949. \$9.50.

The second edition of this textbook of neurology presents few departures from the original, but in general has been adequately brought up to date in a field that is evolving a more dynamic concept in recent years.

The book is rather more complete than the usual text, and may be considered rather voluminous for the medical student not contemplating specialization in neurology. However, the section devoted to examination of the nervous system is very good, and for this reason the book is especially valuable to the student. Equally, it is sufficiently complete to serve as a reference work adequate to the practitioner who, although not a specialist, needs to treat patients with neurological disease.

The form of presentation used is simple and direct. There is perhaps a tendency for dogmatic statements in fields in which some controversy remains, but this is not a serious disadvantage to the student, and allowances may be made for it by the neurologist. The work is probably as good a single volume text on neurology as is at present available.

* * *

METHODS IN MEDICAL RESEARCH—Volume 2. By J. H. Comroe, Jr., M.D., Editor-in-Chief. The Year Book Publishers, Inc., 200 East Illinois Street, Chicago, Illinois. 1950. \$6.50.

The first volume in this series was reviewed favorably, even enthusiastically, in *CALIFORNIA MEDICINE*. The present volume is up to the high standard set by the earlier one.

The first of the three sections in this book deals with methods of study of the bacterial viruses (the bacteriophages) for 73 pages. The next section devotes 170 pages to pulmonary function tests (the topics include measurements upon respired gases, measurements on arterial blood, and specific tests of pulmonary function). The third section (97 pages) deals with the assay of certain hormone secretions, with particular reference to anterior pituitary hor-

mones, ovarian hormones, and testicular and adrenal hormones.

As in the first volume, each subdivision is written by an authority and is reviewed and commented upon by others. Methods are presented in great detail, and there are adequate bibliographies, author index and subject index.

The book is recommended to all medical libraries and to those interested in the study of disease, particularly to microbiologists, gynecologists and other endocrinologists, and to those concerned with pulmonary function.

* * *

AETIOS OF AMIDA—The Gynaecology and Obstetrics of the Vith Century A.D. Translated by James V. Ricci, A.B., M.D. The Blakiston Company, Philadelphia, 1950.

Aetios of Amida was a wise man, for he collected all that was known of the medical treatments of his time. He knew of strange remedies and powerful magic. He must have practiced the art of healing with skill and success, for he rose to the position of court physician to the first Justinian, the greatest of the emperors of Byzantium. Aetios was more than a mere healer, he also was a great and astute recorder of the accumulated knowledge of his period. This he set down in the 16 volumes of the Tetrabiblon, which from 600 to 1600 A.D. remained one of the few great medical encyclopedias of the old world. The last volume was devoted exclusively to the treatment of women. The indefatigable Dr. Ricci considered it important enough for posterity to rescue old Aetios' recommendations for the entertainment of his colleagues, perhaps with tongue in cheek, because now as then fact and fancy so often become entangled in the practice of gynecology and obstetrics. If you do not believe it, just have a look at what old Aetios had to say about the treatment of sterility.

Book reviews come at a dime a dozen and most of them are never read by the busy doctor. But if you are one of those who prove the exception to the rule, take my word for what I have to say about Ricci's sincere effort to open the past to you, even if for no other reason than to stimulate your imagination. As far as the humble opinion of your reviewer is concerned, Ricci has succeeded admirably in doing just that with his translation of Aetios' admonitions. Like some of the other historical contributions from the pen of James V. Ricci, this book is dressed in meticulous English and embellished with a multitude of annotations and comments. The author has been fair with the original text and whenever there was more than one meaning to a statement he kept the translation as literal as possible after consulting other experts of the lingua Latina. There is nothing in this book that is of practical value to the physician of today, but the philosophical implications and deductions incidental to medical recommendations are priceless gems of pristine thinking.

Students of history, teachers and thinkers will enjoy this book. It is a storehouse of ancient thought and of some profound wisdom, but it also is an important historical document of the evolution of medical practice. There are 123 chapters in the 16th volume of the Tetrabiblon, but the translator has managed to set them down in readable English in only 120 pages. For those who like to browse through source references and extracts from the original text, Ricci supplies 100 pages of interesting annotations. Arturo Castiglione, professor of gynecology at the University of Milan, Italy, has written a fitting introduction. The Blakiston Company of Philadelphia presents the little tome to the profession in an attractive binding. The translator has used the Latin edition of Coronarius published in Basle, Switzerland, in 1542 by Froben as the original source for his latest contribution to the history of gynecology and obstetrics. Your reviewer considers "Aetios of Amida" a worthy addition to your shelf of books to be read during leisure hours.

SPEECH THERAPY FOR THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED. By Sara Stinchfield Hawk. Stanford University Press, Stanford, California, 1950. \$4.00.

This book is of special value for speech therapists and fills a gap for every physician who treats spastic children. Speech therapy has been part of the treatment given to handicapped children at the Orthopaedic Hospital in Los Angeles for several decades. The author describes procedures and results in 53 cases during an eight-year period. From the clinic of the hospital, 9 per cent of the patients had speech defects (against 2 per cent of normal school children). The other therapeutic procedures, including braces and physiotherapy, were used in coordination with speech treatment.

The book contains a wealth of exercises for relaxation, practice words and sentences, articulatory exercises and verses for speech training of spastics. The occurrence of stuttering is high among handicapped children as result of poor adjustment. Therapeutic procedures and rules of mental hygiene are well outlined.

In 49 per cent the author found pure left-handedness or mixed left and right-handedness which in her opinion accounts for inability in speaking, reading, spelling and writing as well as for clumsiness. The I.Q. improves, often fast, under speech training. Dental factors in spastics due to malocclusion or "side-bite" from stronger pull exerted by the facial and neck muscles on the uninjured side cause need for corrective dentistry and speech training.

An interesting chapter is added on personality measurements and vocational guidance for handicapped children. I. Q. tests are difficult to apply; verbal expression is handicapped by speech difficulties, performance tests by manual incoordination. The description of combined methods will be of great practical help.

* * *

HANDBOOK OF OBSTETRICS AND DIAGNOSTIC GYNECOLOGY. By Leo Doyle, M.S., M.D. Illustrations by Ralph Sweet. First Edition. University Medical Publishers. P.O. 761, Palo Alto, 1950. \$2.00.

Dr. Leo Doyle's "Handbook of Obstetrics and Diagnostic Gynecology" is a concise outline of these fields of medicine. The author states that his book is neither a textbook nor a reference book; rather, the information is outlined so that it is easily and quickly available to the busy practitioner. It is planned that the handbook will undergo frequent revisions to keep pace with the inevitable changes of therapeutics. Descriptions of surgical techniques have been omitted.

The book is divided into two sections. The first section on obstetrics includes the essentials of diagnosis and treatment of normal and abnormal pregnancy. The Rh factor is presented in a manner by which the physician can readily grasp the intricacies of this puzzling problem. There is an excellent discussion of the emotional aspects of pregnancy—a facet of patient care which has had increasing emphasis in the literature in recent months. A chapter is included on minor problems of pregnancy; the vexing nausea and vomiting, hemorrhoids, constipation and others with to-the-point methods of treatment which will be welcomed by obstetricians.

The section of diagnostic gynecology is rather short and does not cover the material as thoroughly as the obstetrical section. The diagnosis of pelvic masses and infertility management are well presented.

The diagrams and illustrations throughout the book are adequate to augment the accompanying text.

There is an excellent table of normal blood chemistry and urine values and the variations occurring in pregnancy on the cover pages, which is an added bonus of this very worthwhile book. Dr. Doyle's handbook will be a welcome addition to the libraries of general practitioners who have particular interest in obstetrics and gynecology.